

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04450 090752Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 A-01 MMO-01 /014 W
-----045427 090759Z /17

P 090710Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8727

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 4450

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PDIP
SUBJECT: DUTY FREE PRIVILEGES AND TAX LIABILITIES

REF: (A) KUWAIT 4345, (B) STATE 183999.

1. REF A REPORTED THE ONLY IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES IN TREATMENT OF DIPLOMATIC VS NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL. HOWEVER, WE CONTACTED SEVERAL SOURCES AT THE PROTOCOL SECTION OF THE MFA TO MAKE SURE THAT WE HAD ALL THE FACTS. NONE OF OUR SOURCES THERE REALLY SEEMED TO KNOW PRECISELY WHAT THE DIFFERENCES WERE. HOWEVER, WE WERE ABLE TO DISTILL THE FOLLOWING FROM SEVERAL CONTACTS. THEY JIBE WITH OUR OWN OBSERVATIONS OF ACTUAL PRACTICE HERE.

2. KUWAIT APPLIES THE VIENNA CONVENTION, AND THUS, THE DISTINCTIONS CONTAINED THEREIN ARE APPLIED INsofar AS IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION, ETC. ARE CONCERNED.

3. OTHER DIFFERENCES ARE AS FOLLOWS:
A. DIPLOMATS MAY IMPORT GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS AT ANY TIME DURING THEIR TOUR. NON-DIPS CAN ONLY DO SO DURING THEIR FIRST SIX MONTHS IN KUWAIT.
B. DIPLOMATS ARE EXEMPT FROM ALL FEES FOR DRIVERS LICENSES AND AUTO REGISTRATION. NON-KPS PAY A TOTAL OF ABOUT \$12 FOR THESE SERVICES. (ONCE PER TOUR).

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 04450 090752Z

C. DIPLOMATS ARE PERMITTED TO IMPORT LIQUOR, NON-DIPS ARE NOT. (ALL LIQUOR IS IMPORTED IN THE NAME OF THE EMBASSY AND IS AVAILABLE TO ALL EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS THROUGH AMERICAN EMPLOYEES WELFARE ASSOCIATION.)
D. DIPLOMATS HAVE FIRST PREFERENCE FOR THEIR CHILDREN IN KUWAITI (ARABIC) SCHOOLS. THIS IS NOT REALLY AN ISSUE FOR US.

4. NO ACTION IS UNDERWAY TO EQUALIZE THE DIFFERENCES.
EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT MAJOR EFFORT REQUIRED TO GET
GOK TO CONSIDER REMOVAL OF LICENSE AND REGISTRATION FEES
WOULD PROBABLY BE UNSUCCESSFUL, ANYWAY. ALSO, WE ARE
UNAWARE OF ANY COMPLAINTS FROM STAFF EMPLOYEES ON THIS
MATTER.

5. OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE DIFFERENCES THEREFORE, IS THAT
THEY ARE MINOR, AND THAT ANY CAMPAIGN TO CHANGE THEM
MIGHT BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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